



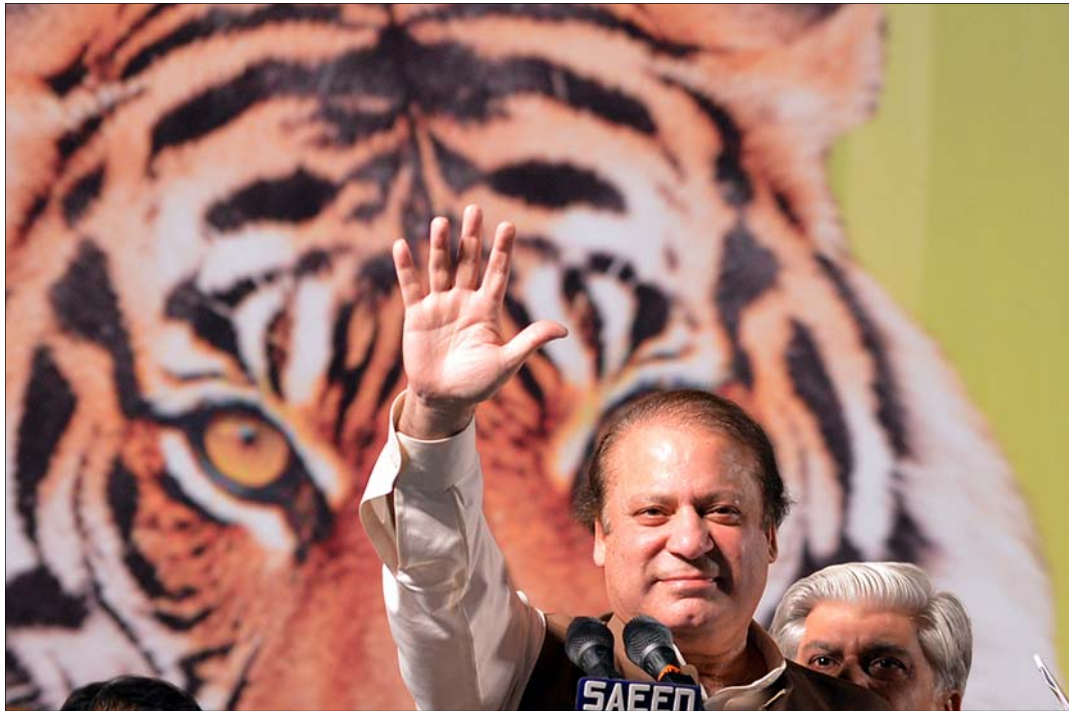
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Nawaz Sharif, the recently elected prime minister of Pakistan, waves to his supporters

PAKISTAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

An election was held in Pakistan on 11th May. A political party called the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) won. The result means that the party's leader, Nawaz Sharif, will be Pakistan's new prime minister. Many people have described his victory as a remarkable comeback. This is because Mr Sharif has been prime minister of the country twice before. Yet, both times, he was deposed, or forced to step down.

For many years the part of the world that is now Pakistan, India and Bangladesh was a UK colony. During that time it was known as 'India'. In 1947 the UK agreed to leave. Yet its former colony did not become one new independent country. Instead it was divided into two separate nations, India and Pakistan.

The borders of the two new countries were based roughly on the religions that people followed. The majority of those who live in Pakistan are Muslims. India's

population is mainly Hindu. Then Bangladesh was known as East Pakistan. Its population was also mostly Muslim. In 1971 it split from Pakistan and became a separate country called Bangladesh.

Since it became an independent nation Pakistan has had a troubled political history. There have been a number of military coups (pronounced 'coos'). A coup is when a military commander uses the army to seize control. In Pakistan there have been long periods during which military leaders have run the country.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won the previous election, which was held in 2008. The PPP has therefore governed the country for the past five years. This means that the recent election was remarkable for another reason. It was the first time, in Pakistan's history, that one democratically elected government had taken over from another.

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As well as being a politician Mr Sharif is a wealthy and successful businessman. His first term as Pakistan's prime minister was from 1990 to 1993. It ended when the country's president forced him to step down. The president accused Mr Sharif of being corrupt. A corrupt person is someone who is trusted with an official position yet then behaves dishonestly. For example, a corrupt person may demand unofficial payments or favours for doing certain things. These payments or favours are called bribes. Accepting bribes is illegal.

In 1996, Mr Sharif was re-elected for a second term as prime minister. Soon afterwards Pakistan became a 'nuclear power'. Mr Sharif ordered that some of the country's nuclear weapons, which had been secretly developed many years before, be tested. He did this because India had just completed its first successful nuclear weapons test. Ever since Pakistan and India became independent nations they have been rivals and often enemies. As India was now a nuclear power Mr Sharif believed Pakistan had to demonstrate that it too had nuclear weapons.

Around that time fighting broke out between Pakistani and Indian troops along the border in the north of the country. It lasted for several weeks. Mr Sharif then had a number of disagreements with the country's military leaders. In 1999 General Musharraf organised a military coup. Mr Sharif was deposed and kept in prison. He was put on trial and found guilty of being corrupt.

Many people thought Mr Sharif would be sentenced to death. Yet, in 2000, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia persuaded General Musharraf to allow Mr Sharif to leave the country. The former prime minister then went to live in Saudi Arabia.

In 2001 an Islamic militant group called al-Qaeda attacked the USA. This group had its training bases in Afghanistan, which, at that time, was controlled by the Taliban. When the Taliban refused to hand over the al-Qaeda leaders the USA led an invasion of the country. Many of the Taliban fighters moved to the mountainous region near the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Twelve years later troops from the USA and several other countries, such as the UK, are still fighting against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The war in Afghanistan has caused many problems in Pakistan. The Taliban believe people should obey very strict Islamic laws. Some people in Pakistan, especially many living close to the border with Afghanistan, have similar beliefs. These people have grouped together and are now known as the Pakistani Taliban.

Over the last five years the PPP government has become very unpopular. One reason is that it is supposed to help the USA in its fight against the Taliban. In return for its support Pakistan receives large amounts of money from the USA. Not all Pakistanis are happy about this arrangement. Many have also become angry about the use of drones.

American troops in Afghanistan cannot cross the border into Pakistan. However, they have been using drones to attack Taliban commanders and their camps in Pakistan. Drones are unmanned small aircraft that can be controlled remotely. Drone attacks are not always accurate. Many innocent civilians in the border areas have been killed by drone strikes. This has encouraged more people to join the Pakistani Taliban.

Mr Sharif was allowed to return to Pakistan in 2007. He did not take part in the 2008 election. Yet his PML-N

party won 91 seats in the country's parliament. Soon afterwards a court ruled that all the previous charges made against Mr Sharif, such as those for corruption, would be dropped.

Many different political parties took part in the recent election. Some people worried that the Pakistani Taliban would try to stop the voting. This was because its leaders had said that the election was un-Islamic. In the days before the election the Pakistani Taliban carried out several attacks on politicians, including members of the PPP.



Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) supporters

Before the election Mr Sharif said that, if he won, he would hold talks with the Pakistani Taliban. He also declared that he would stop all American drone attacks in Pakistan. Furthermore, Mr Sharif promised to fix the country's electricity problems. Power cuts, or blackouts, are frequent in Pakistan. Many people blame the PPP for the power cuts.

Out of a total of 272 seats Mr Sharif's PML-N won 124. The PPP was second with 31. The turnout, or the total number of people deciding to vote, was very high.

Mr Sharif has admitted that he made mistakes when he was prime minister many years ago. Those who work closely with him believe he has changed. They insist that Pakistan's new leader now has the determination that will be needed to solve the nation's many economic, social and security problems. ■

AIR STRIKES ON SYRIA

A series of air attacks, or air strikes, took place in Syria on 3rd and 5th May. There were several huge explosions just a few kilometres from Damascus, the capital of Syria. Similar air strikes were carried out near Damascus in January.

Most people suspect that these were Israeli air attacks. However, Israel's leaders have not admitted nor denied that their air force planes were involved. The Syrian government complained. It declared that it now had a right to attack Israel. The government of Lebanon was also angry. If it was Israeli warplanes then they probably flew over Lebanon, as the places attacked are close to its border with Syria.



Israel is believed to have organised these types of secret air attacks before in Iraq, Syria and Sudan. Last October, for example, a factory close to Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, was mysteriously destroyed. It's thought it was used to make rockets and other types of weapons, which were being sent to some of Israel's enemies. Israel was accused of carrying out the air attack on the factory. Yet each time these types of air strikes happen Israel's leaders refuse to say anything about them.

Two years ago an uprising began in Syria. Armed groups, or rebels, that want the country's president,

Bashar al-Assad, to resign have been fighting against the Syrian army. The rebels now control some parts of Syria. However, many people in the country still support Mr al-Assad and his government.

There are two main religious groups in Syria, Sunni and Shia Muslims. The majority of the population is Sunni. The president's family are members of a small religious group called Alawites. This group is connected to the Shia branch of the Islamic faith. Most of the people who oppose Mr al-Assad are Sunni Muslims and the majority who support him are Shia.

Traditionally Syria has received a lot of help from Iran, the main Shia-led country in the Middle East. Hezbollah, a political group based in southern Lebanon, has recently announced that it will support the Syrian government. Hezbollah is not just a political group. It also has a large number of armed and well-equipped fighters.

Hezbollah's bases in Lebanon are close to the Israeli border. In 2006 it fought a successful 33-day-long war against Israel. In the past Hezbollah is known to have received help and weapons from both Iran and Syria.

The air strikes on Syria last January are believed to have destroyed a supply of anti-aircraft missiles. Many people suspect that Israel found out that these missiles were about to be moved from Syria and handed over to Hezbollah. Israel decided to destroy them because they do not want Hezbollah to have these types of anti-aircraft weapons.

The recent air strikes are believed to have destroyed several large Syrian army weapon stores. Some people think that if Syria's army starts to lose the war many of its weapons will be transported to southern Lebanon. Doing this would stop the

rebel forces from capturing them. This, these people say, explains the recent air attacks. They believe Israel wants to make sure that Hezbollah will not be able to use any of these Syrian weapons in future. ■

GHOST TOWN APPEARS

The small town of Villa Epecuén, in Argentina, has become a place for tourists to visit once again. Yet those visiting today do so for a different reason than in the past. This is because, after being underwater for the past 28 years, the ruins of Villa Epecuén can now be seen.

Villa Epecuén is about 547 kilometres (340 miles) from Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina. It was built, close to a large saltwater lake, in the 1920's. The waters of the lake contain ten times more

NewsCAST

APPLE TREE HEATING — A man in Canada has been protecting the 10,000 apples trees on his farm in an unusual way. He is pay to have a helicopter fly just above the trees on certain nights. He asks a helicopter company to do this if the temperature at night is expected to drop below 0°C (32°F). His apple trees are now in blossom, or full bloom. The blossom, which, later in the year, will develop into apples, can be badly damaged or killed by very cold temperatures. The helicopter, by hovering above the trees, pushes warm air that rises from the ground back down. This keeps the temperature around the trees above freezing. The farmer says that just one night of freezing temperatures could damage 90% of the blossom.

salt than seawater. The lake is so salty that if you swim in it you float much higher than when in the sea or a swimming pool.

The town became very popular with the many Jewish people who live in Buenos Aires. The lake reminded them of the Dead Sea, in Israel. The Dead Sea is a large inland lake. It is one of the world's saltiest areas of water. No fish are able to live in the lake, which is why it is called the Dead Sea.

For many years Villa Epecuén gradually grew in size. In the 1970's it had a population of about 5,000. The town had many hotels and guesthouses. Around 20,000 tourists used to visit Villa Epecuén every year. Many came by train, as a railway was built from Buenos Aires to another town close by.



Ruins of Villa Epecuén

Then, in 1985, the waters of the lake suddenly began to rise. There had been a lot of rain over several days and a nearby dam burst. Those living in the town had to leave quickly. Eventually, almost the whole town was submerged. In some places the water was ten metres (33 feet) deep.

In recent years the water has been receding, or going back down. Saltwater is **corrosive**. So the buildings that can be seen look very different to those that disappeared in 1985. All are covered in salt and most have collapsed. Many people now describe Villa Epecuén as a 'ghost town'.

Visitors are travelling to the town to see the ruins. It is possible to walk along some of the old streets. Rusting cars and the remains of household items such as refrigerators and washing machines can be seen. Many visitors say that Villa Epecuén is similar to what they imagine the end of the world would look like. Even though the lake waters have now receded there are no plans to rebuild the town. ■

MAGICICADA RETURN

People living along the USA's north east coast, or seaboard, have been reporting the return of what are known as the '17-year cicadas'. These large winged insects, which make a very loud noise, have an unusual life cycle.

Adult cicadas are usually between two and five centimetres (one and two inches) long. They have big eyes and short antennae. The insects feed on the sap of trees. Cicadas lay their eggs in slits, or thin cuts, that they make in the branches of trees and **shrubs**.

Unlike some other insects, cicadas hatch from their eggs as nymphs rather than as larvae. A nymph is different from a larva because it already looks like an adult of the species.

Newborn cicada nymphs deliberately fall off the tree and shrub branches. They then burrow underground. There, most of them spend several years feeding on tree roots. As the cicada nymphs grow bigger, they keep shedding their skin, or 'outer casing', before reappearing above the ground. Not all types of cicadas have these long life cycles. In many parts of the world the insects appear every year.

However, some American species of cicada spend many more years underground. These ones are called *Magicicada*, or 13- or 17-year periodical cicadas.



Magicicada

The insects that are now coming up to the surface in many American states, such as Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia are 17-year cicadas. They have been underground since 1996. During May and June billions of them are expected to emerge from the ground in these states.

When a large number of insects suddenly appears around the same time like this it's known as a brood. The USA's 13-year cicada brood last emerged in 2011.

Adult cicadas are very noisy. The males make a loud clicking sound. They use membranes on the sides of their bodies to make the noise. Hollow parts of the insect's body act like 'sound chambers'. These magnify the sound and make it even louder. Different species of cicadas produce different noises. Yet all are very loud. Their clicking can reach up to 120 decibels. This is as loud as a speeding train.

Cicadas are harmless to humans. They don't bite or sting, but they can be annoying. When many are flying around, people often complain that the insects get stuck inside their houses or even tangled in their hair. Farmers and gardeners

also have to protect young trees and shrubs, as egg-laying cicadas can damage them.

After emerging the adults will live only for a few weeks. During this time they feed, mate and lay eggs. After their eggs hatch the new nymphs will burrow underground and will not reappear until 2030. ■

3-D PRINTING

On 6th May an online organisation in the USA, called Defense Distributed, claimed that it had produced a handgun with a 3-D (three-dimensional) printer. The gun is made up of 15 plastic parts and one small metal nail. The organisation said it had posted the instructions and design software for making the gun on the internet. This meant other people could easily download them.

Many people were worried about the announcement. This is because some suspect that security scanners would not be able to detect the plastic gun. So, for example, a gun made to this design by a 3-D printer, could be put in a small bag and taken onto a plane. Some people even said that 3-D printers are too dangerous and should be banned.

However, many others disagree. They claim that, within the next few years, 3-D printing could 'change the world'. Today the cost of 3-D printers is still very high. Yet as more of them are made they will probably become much less expensive.

The technology for 3-D printing was invented in the 1980s. The printers work in a similar way to a normal printer. A desktop printer puts a thin layer of ink on a piece of paper. A 3-D printer moves backwards and forwards. Each time it does it builds up very thin layers. So, as the printer

goes back and forth, the object being made slowly takes shape. The layers are fused, or fixed together, by a laser beam.



3-D printer

Instead of ink a 3-D printer can use many different substances. These include plastic, wax, types of resin or even metals such as titanium and gold. The parts of the printer that 'spray' these substances on are guided by special CAD (computer-aided design) software.

3-D printers can be used to make many different items. For example, it is possible to use them to produce engine parts, jewellery, false teeth, cups, and furniture. Some large companies such as Boeing, in the USA, are already using 3-D printers. Boeing uses the printers to make some of the smaller parts of the planes it builds.

There are several advantages of using 3-D printers. One is that there is no waste. When an item is made with a 3-D printer none of the substance used to produce it is thrown away. This is very different from making something in a factory.

Nowadays many items are mass-produced in large factories in other countries. All these items look the same. Yet in future many of these factory-produced items could be made on 3-D printers. What's more each could be slightly different.

Some predict that 3-D printers will allow many people to set up their own small businesses. For

instance, a small company could make a type of plastic toy such as a doll. Customers would be invited to design their own doll via the internet. The company would then use the design to print the doll. Afterwards the doll could be quickly delivered to the customer. Therefore each doll the company makes can be different.

Today it is possible to buy a 3-D printer for about US\$1,200 (£790). However, not many things can be made on one of these printers. The 3-D printer used to make the plastic gun originally cost about US\$30,000 (£19,720). The gun makers bought the printer second hand for US\$5,000 (£3,290).

On 9th May the government of the USA ordered Defense Distributed to stop making their gun design available on the internet. It agreed to do so. Yet by then the design had been downloaded, all around the world, by at least 10,000 people. ■

MARRIAGE OF THE SEA

Venice's Festa della Sensa (Sensa festival) took place on 11th May. The festival includes a ceremony known as the 'Marriage of the Sea', which was first performed over 1,000 years ago.



Serenissima in Venice

Venice is one of the most famous cities in the world. The city is in a saltwater lagoon at the northern end of the Adriatic Sea. It was built on 117 islands. Most of Venice's buildings

are very old and intricately decorated. Many were built on large pieces of wood that were sunk into the lagoon. Venice has few streets and no cars. Instead the 'roads' are canals, and most transport is done by boat. There are at least 400 bridges in the city.

Venice is now one of the world's most popular tourist destinations. Around 20 million people visit the city each year.

The Sensa festival takes place in May on the Sunday after Ascension Day. In the Christian faith Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Ascension Day is the day on which Christians believe he ascended to heaven nearly 2,000 years ago.



Painting of the Bucentaur, or the Doges' barge

Today Venice is part of Italy, but between the year 700 and the late 1700s it was an independent 'city state'. For many years Venice was one of the richest cities in the world. When it was a city state the more wealthy families selected Venice's leader. He was called the Doge.

Doges used a specially made large boat, or barge, called the Bucentaur. The last barge used by the Doges was built in 1729. It was 35 meters (115 feet) long and richly decorated. The boat was manned by 40 sailors and rowed by over 160 oarsmen.

On the day of the Sensa festival the Bucentaur would lead a long procession of boats out into the Adriatic Sea. The Doge would then say a prayer for the seas to remain

calm. Later a golden ring was added to the ceremony. It was thrown into the sea from the deck of the barge. The ring was a symbol of the 'marriage' between the city of Venice and the surrounding seas.

The French Emperor Napoleon destroyed the last Bucentaur when he captured Venice in 1798. He gave orders for the barge to be burnt. It is said that the boat was still burning three days later and that it took over 350 mules to carry away all of its gold decorations. Some small parts of the last Bucentaur can be seen at one of Venice's museums.

Nowadays, on the day of the Sensa festival, there is a re-enactment of the Marriage of the Sea ceremony. A smaller boat, called the Serenissima, leads the procession.

A replica, or copy, of the last Bucentaur is now being built at one of Venice's historic shipyards. Work began five years ago. By the time it is finished hundreds of people would have taken part in the project. They include shipbuilders, jewellers and woodcarvers. ■

ELECTION IN MALAYSIA

An election was held in Malaysia on 5th May. A political group called the Barisan Nasional (BN) won the most seats. Its leader, Najib Razak, will therefore continue to be the country's prime minister.

Mr Razak has been the leader of the BN and Malaysia's prime minister since 2009. The BN is made up of several political parties that work closely together. The largest one, which Mr Razak belongs to, is the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO). Malaysia was once a colony of the UK. It became an independent country in 1957. Since

then the UMNO has been on the winning side in every election.

Like the UK Malaysia is what's known as a constitutional monarchy. The prime minister runs the country but the king is head of state. Similar to the UK's Queen, the King of Malaysia has very little power. However, unlike the UK, Malaysia has nine sultans, or royal rulers. Each is in charge of a separate region of the country. The sultans take turns to be the King of Malaysia. One of them is selected by the others to be the country's monarch. Then, after five years another takes his place.

Malaysia, which has a population of around 28 million, is multi-religious. Islam is the country's official religion. Roughly 60% of the population are Muslims. These people are known as Malays. About 25% of Malaysians are people whose ancestors originally came from China. They are either Buddhists or Christians. Most of the remaining 15% are Hindus. These people's families moved to the country from southern India when Malaysia was controlled by the UK.



Malaysia's prime minister, Najib Razak

In the past there have been several large demonstrations by non-Muslim Malaysians. Those that have taken part complain about discrimination. They say that BN governments always favour Malays.

The main opposition group in the country is called Pakatan Rakyat (PR). Anwar Ibrahim leads it. Many

NewsCAST

DEFLATING DUCK — People visiting the city of Hong Kong, in China, are now unable to see what has become a popular sight. Since the beginning of May a huge ‘blow up’ rubber duck has been floating in the city’s harbour. An artist from the Netherlands created the bright yellow duck. Over the last five years the floating duck, which is 16 metres (52 feet) high, has visited cities all around the world. Recently the duck started to lean on its side. Later it went completely flat. It’s not known what caused it to deflate. It’s possible that someone deliberately punctured or made a hole in it. The owners have said that the duck will now be taken to a shipyard so it can be checked.



years ago Mr Ibrahim was a senior member of the UMNO.

The Malaysian parliament is called the Dewan Rakyat. It has 222 seats. At the previous election, which was held in 2008, PR got 82 seats and the BN 140. It was a good result for Mr Ibrahim. This was because before the election the BN had 199 seats.

Mr Ibrahim and his supporters were hoping for another good result. This time many thought they would get the most seats. Yet this did not happen. After all the votes had been counted it was announced that the BN had won with 133 seats to PR’s 89.

However, PR won what’s called the ‘popular vote’ by roughly 51% to 48%. Malaysia’s voting system is known as ‘first past the post’. It simply means the person who gets

the most votes in a certain area, or constituency, wins the seat and is elected. Some constituencies have fewer people living in them than others. So even though it loses the popular vote a party can still win the most seats.

It seems that most of those in the countryside voted for the BN. In the larger cities, such as the capital, Kuala Lumpur, PR was more popular. ■

STATE OF EMERGENCY IN NIGERIA

On 14th May Nigeria’s president, Goodluck Jonathan, spoke on live television. He declared a state of emergency in three Nigerian states. The reason, he explained, was an increasing number of bombings and shootings in this part of the country. An Islamic militant group, known as Boko Haram, is carrying out these attacks.

Around 170 million people live in Nigeria. It has the largest population of any African country. Roughly half of the people in Nigeria are Muslims. The other half follows the Christian faith. Most Muslims live in the north of the country. The majority of people in the south are Christians. Nigeria is also the world’s sixth-largest oil-producing country.



Normally governments will only declare a state of emergency if there is a very serious problem. For example, if a war has started or violence has broken out between two

opposing groups. Another reason could be natural disasters such as earthquakes or serious flooding. Usually a government will send military forces to the place where there is a state of emergency. When this happens local leaders often lose their right to govern. Freedoms are also restricted. This continues until the government announces that the state of emergency is over.

The three places in which a state of emergency has been called are Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. These states are in the north east of Nigeria.

The name Boko Haram means ‘Western education is sinful’, or that any un-Islamic education is wrong. The group’s leaders say they don’t believe in democracy. They have said that they want to create a separate Islamic state, or country, in the north of Nigeria. Boko Haram’s leaders and its supporters insist that everyone should follow very strict religious laws.

Over the last few years Boko Haram has carried out many attacks in northern Nigerian towns and villages. There have been several fierce battles between its fighters and the Nigerian army and police. Some churches have been bombed. Local government buildings have also been attacked. These include police stations and prisons, where captured Boko Haram members have been held. More recently the group has started kidnapping people. Boko Haram then demand a ransom, or large payment, in exchange for their safe return.

Boko Haram has warned all Christians who live in northern Nigeria to leave. However, the group does not just attack Christians. It has also killed many Muslims. These people, the group claims, are enemies because they work with Nigeria’s elected politicians.

In the recent past the Nigerian government has offered Boko Haram an [amnesty](#). But the group's leaders rejected this. Over the last three years Boko Haram supporters have been blamed for around 2,000 deaths in Nigeria.

In his address, or speech, Mr Jonathan said what was happening in the north east of the country was like a declaration of war. The army, he explained, would take control of the three states. All the group's leaders and supporters, the president insisted, would be either captured or killed. ■

MAYON VOLCANO

On 7th May the Mayon Volcano, also known as Mount Mayon, in the Philippines, suddenly erupted. Volcano experts, called volcanologists, can often predict when volcanoes are likely to erupt. Yet there were no warning signs before Mount Mayon's latest eruption.

The eruption lasted for only 73 seconds. It threw ash, large rocks and steam, high into the air. At the time a group of people were climbing, or hiking, to the top of the volcano. Most were from other countries. Five were killed and several others badly injured.

The Mayon Volcano is one of the most active in the world. Many also describe it as the world's most beautiful volcano. This is because of its almost perfect cone-like, or conical, shape. The volcano, which is 2,463 metres (8,080 feet) high, is on Luzon, the largest of the many islands that make up the Philippines.

Mount Mayon is one of five large active volcanoes in the Philippines. One of the others is Mount Pinatubo, which erupted in 1991. This eruption lasted for several days and was one

of the 20th century's most violent. As so much ash was sent high into the atmosphere it had a worldwide effect. Over the following months this ash caused world temperatures to drop by roughly 0.5°C.



Mount Mayon

Over the last 400 years Mount Mayon has erupted 48 times. One of the worst eruptions was in 1814. It destroyed several nearby towns and killed 1,200 people.

The 1814 eruption is thought to have been one of the causes of what became known as the 'Year Without a Summer', in 1816. In the previous year Mount Tambora, in what is now Indonesia, erupted. This was the largest eruption in recorded history. The huge amounts of ash in the atmosphere from these volcanoes blocked some of the Sun's heat. This affected the climate in many parts of the world. In 1816 crops did not grow and farm animals died in places as far away as North America and Europe.

Volcanologists say that the recent Mount Mayon eruption was what's known as a 'phreatic explosion'. A build up of very hot steam inside a volcano causes these types of eruptions. Phreatic eruptions are powerful but normally last for only a short time. They usually occur without any warning signs.

The group that was climbing Mount Mayon had spent the night on the mountain. They were climbing towards the crater at the top of

the volcano when the eruption happened. Those who died were killed by huge rocks, some the size of cars, that fell down on them. Four of the people that died came from Germany. The other was a local man who was helping them.

There is a six-kilometre (four mile) area or [exclusion](#) zone around the volcano. People are not supposed to enter this area. Benigno Aquino, the president of the Philippines, ordered an investigation to find out why the hikers entered the exclusion zone. ■

THIEL FELLOWSHIP

On 9th May Peter Thiel introduced the people who have been selected to be this year's 'Thiel Fellows'. They were the third set of people to be awarded a Thiel [Fellowship](#).



Thiel Fellowship finalists

Mr Thiel is a wealthy German-born American businessman. He lives in California, in the USA. Mr Thiel is a well-known entrepreneur, or someone who is interested in starting and running new businesses. He was a co-founder of PayPal. This is now a very successful international company. It allows payments and money to be easily transferred via the internet. Mr Thiel made a lot of money when PayPal was sold to eBay in 2002. He was also one of the first people to invest money in the Facebook Company.

In 2010 Mr Thiel announced the set up of the Thiel Fellowship. He believes that many people who go to university waste their time and money. He admits that to be successful in certain types of work a university education is important. However, he says that for many other careers, including setting up your own business, it is not necessary. Mr Thiel also believes that, nowadays, to grow their economies all countries need many more young entrepreneurs.

At first the Thiel Fellowship was called '20 under 20'. The idea is that each year 20 people under the age of 20 are selected to go to California to work for two years. The teenagers can come from any country in the world. During their two years each is paid US\$100,000 (£65,700).

To be selected the people must show that they have some good ideas for new internet based services. They also need to agree to stop studying for two years. The successful candidates spend their time in California working on their ideas and trying to turn them into successful businesses.

The first group of Thiel Fellows was chosen in 2011. Most of this year's Thiel Fellows are from the USA, but they include teenagers from the UK, Singapore, Germany and Canada. The organisers received applications from nearly 50 different countries.

Many famous internet based companies have their headquarters in California. They include Google, eBay, Facebook and Yahoo. During the two-year period, Mr Thiel, and people from well-known Californian internet companies, give the Thiel Fellows help and advice.

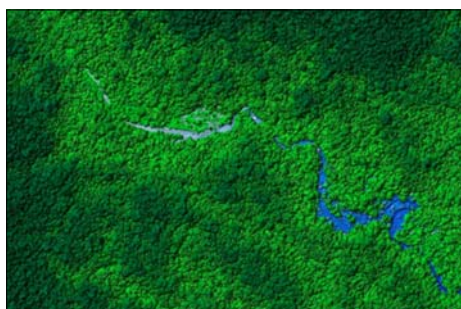
The Thiel Fellowship also organises special conferences, or meetings, twice a year. These meetings

are called Under 20 Summits. People less than 20 years of age, from all around the world, who want to become entrepreneurs, can apply. The conferences last for two days and are for 250 people. The next Under 20 Summit will be held in San Francisco, in California, at the beginning of June.

Many people think that the Thiel Fellowship is a good idea. Yet others say that a university education may be more important. ■

LOST CITY FOUND?

A group of archaeologists from the USA believe that they may have discovered a 'lost city', in Central America. They made their announcement after studying some 3-D (three-dimensional) images. A small plane recorded the images as it flew back and forth over a large area of dense jungle, or rainforest, in Honduras.



*Aerial photograph of Honduras rainforest
(University of Houston/NSF's National Center for
Airborne Laser Mapping)*

The civilisations of both the Aztecs and Maya were in Central America. Several ancient Mayan cities have been found. Some had become 'lost' or overgrown by jungle trees and plants many hundreds of years ago.

There are legends and stories of other lost cities in the jungles of Honduras. One legend, which is at

least 500 years old, tells of the Ciudad Blanca (White City). The city is said to be full of gold. However, many experts think it's unlikely that this city ever existed.

Charles Lindbergh (1902 – 1974) was a well-known pilot. In 1927 he completed the first solo, non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. Lindbergh claimed to have seen the white ruins of an ancient city when flying over part of Honduras. He described it as being almost completely covered in jungle. Later he is said to have encouraged an American explorer, called Theodore Morde (1911 – 1945), to look for it. In 1940 Morde declared that he had discovered a lost city in the jungles of Honduras.

Morde said the overgrown city contained huge ape statues. He called it the 'lost city of the monkey god'. Morde was killed in a car accident in the UK five years later. He never returned to Honduras, nor did he tell anyone where the lost city, he claimed to have found, was.

Travelling through thick jungle is very difficult. Paths have to be cut using large knives called machetes. So it would take explorers, like Morde, a long time to search a small area of the rainforest.

The small plane that recorded the 3-D images was using some equipment called LiDAR (light detection and ranging). This equipment can be used to scan buildings and rocks to make a 3-D image. It uses laser pulses.

In the plane the LiDAR equipment 'fired', or 'beamed' thousands of laser pulses per second at the ground below. The equipment records the time that it takes for the pulses to hit the ground and then return to the plane. From these recordings it is possible to make a

very detailed map of the shape, or topography, of the ground, even if it is covered in thick rainforest.

LiDAR is very accurate. It can record differences in height of less than ten centimetres (four inches). This equipment was first used to successfully look for ruins in thick forests in another part of Central America four years ago. In three or four days LiDAR can 'map' an area of jungle that may have taken people using machetes 20 years to search.

The 3-D images taken by the plane seem to show that the 'lost city' has a number of stone pyramids. These are around 18 metres (60 feet) high. The archaeologists do not know when the pyramids were built. Yet they suspect that they are at least 1,500 years old. They now plan to go to Honduras to investigate what this part of the jungle has been hiding for many hundreds of years. ■

DINOSAUR STAMPEDE?

Over 50 years ago a large number of fossilised dinosaur footprints were discovered at a place called Lark Quarry, in Australia. Palaeontologists – scientists who study fossils – believe that the footprints, or tracks, are a record of a dinosaur stampede, which happened around 95 million years ago.

However, one scientist has recently come up with a different idea. Anthony Romilio is studying palaeontology at an Australian university. He suspects the dinosaurs that made the footprints were walking, or wading, through deep water.

The tracks were discovered by one of the managers of the quarry. At first he thought they were bird footprints. Several years later it was

realised that they were tracks made by dinosaurs many millions of years ago. Experts then dug away some of the surrounding rocks. Eventually they discovered about 3,300 fossilised footprints. They date back to a time when this part of the world was much cooler and wetter than it is now.



Lark Quarry Trackways building

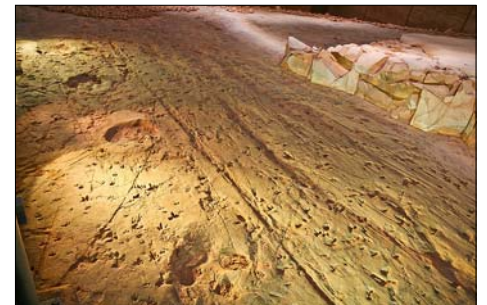
It's thought that about 180 dinosaurs made the footprints. There were two different types. Both were quite small. One type was about the size of a chicken and the other the size of an ostrich. However, there is one set of tracks that must have been made by a much larger creature. This one is believed to be a carnivorous, or meat-eating, dinosaur, about ten metres (33 feet) long.

The footprints made by each of the smaller dinosaurs are quite far apart. Most are going in the same direction. Scientists think these smaller dinosaurs must have been running. This would explain the longer distance between each of their footprints.

Palaeontologists believe that the smaller dinosaurs were close to the edge of a lake or river. Then, a much larger meat-eating dinosaur suddenly appeared. The small ones ran away as fast as they could and left their footprints in the soft mud. Over time the tracks were covered over. Then, after many millions of years, the mud in which the footprints were made turned to rock.

When a large group, or herd, of animals runs away from something it is often called a stampede. Scientists say that the Lark Quarry footprints are the only evidence of a dinosaur stampede in the world.

Mr Romilio is interested in how dinosaurs walked and moved their legs. As part of his research he studied the footprints at Lark Quarry. He became puzzled. He could not work out how the tracks had been made by running dinosaurs. He now believes they are the footprints of dinosaurs walking through deep water. This meant they were 'supported' by the water. (Imagine what it is like to walk in a swimming pool when the water is up to your shoulders.) This, Mr Romilio says, would explain the measurements between each footprint.



Lark Quarry fossilised footprints

Mr Romilio thinks the tracks show where the dinosaurs crossed or waded through a river. He also believes that they were made over a number of days and not all at the same time. Furthermore, he says the larger footprints are those of a plant-eating dinosaur. This type of dinosaur, he says, would not have frightened the others.

However, other palaeontologists disagree. They say that if the tracks were made underwater they would look different. What's more they claim that footprints in underwater mud would have been washed away and not lasted very long. ■

ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER

On 10th May the final section of the spire of a skyscraper, in New York City, in the USA, was fitted to the uppermost part of the building. A crane, fixed to the roof of the tower, was used to lift the section from the ground to the top. The building workers had tied an American flag to it. They did this because the completion of the spire was a symbolic moment for both New York City and the rest of the USA.



One World Trade Center

Officially the new skyscraper is called 'One World Trade Center' or '1 WTC'. However, many people call it 'Freedom Tower'. It has been built close to where the two towers, or twin towers, of the old World Trade Center once stood.

On 11th September 2001, 19 members of an Islamic militant group called al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger planes. Two were deliberately flown into the twin towers. A third hit the Pentagon, the USA's military headquarters near Washington DC, the USA's capital city.

The fourth aircraft crashed in the state of Pennsylvania. The passengers on board had realised what was happening. Some tried to overpower the hijackers and the aircraft came down in a field. These hijackers are thought to have planned to fly the plane to Washington DC. There it would be crashed into the United States

Capitol building, or the White House, the home of the American president.

Nowadays these 'attacks' are usually called '9/11', after the date on which they took place.

The planes had recently taken off, so all were fully loaded with fuel. Those that hit the World Trade Center buildings created huge fires and thick black smoke. The impact, the flames and the damage to the inside of the towers and their walls eventually caused both buildings to collapse.

Almost 3,000 people were killed in the 9/11 attacks. Most were Americans. However, the total included people from 90 countries. For example, over 60 people from the UK, and at least 40 people from India, were among those who died.

The site of the World Trade Center buildings, known as 'Ground Zero', is now a memorial park. The places where the two towers used to stand are marked by large square holes lined with granite. Water flows down the sides, so the holes are like two huge square waterfalls.

Some people describe 9/11 as 'the day that changed the world'. This is because it led to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

One World Trade Center has been built to replace the twin towers that were destroyed nearly 12 years ago. It is now the third tallest building in the world. The highest is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Taipei 101 building, in Taiwan, is the second tallest.

1 WTC overlooks the memorial park. It has 104 floors and has been designed to withstand a 9/11-type attack. The building, plus the spire at the top, is 1,776 feet (541.3 metres) high. The number of feet, 1776, is the same as the year in history when America became an independent nation. ■

GULF EXERCISE BEGINS

A fleet of navy ships from many different countries began the world's largest anti-mine, or minesweeping, exercise on 12th May. The 19-day exercise is taking place near the Strait of Hormuz.

A mine is a type of weapon designed to sink or damage ships. Mines can float on the sea or stay just below the surface of the water. If a ship hits it the mine will explode. Removing and disarming mines, which an enemy has placed in the sea, is known as minesweeping.



The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow sea channel about 56 kilometres (35 miles) wide. It links the Persian Gulf (also known as the Arabian Gulf, or just 'the Gulf') and the Gulf of Oman. The strait leads to the Arabian Sea. Many people say that the Strait of Hormuz is one of the most important waterways in the world. This is because of the number of huge oil tankers that sail through it every day.

It is estimated that about 20% of all the oil used throughout the world passes through the Strait of Hormuz. This oil comes from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Qatar, and Iran. Many countries depend on oil that travels from the Gulf to the Arabian Sea. For example, tankers that sail through the Strait of Hormuz carry roughly 50% of the oil used

in China and 75% of oil imported by Japan.

For many years countries including the USA, the UK, France, and Germany have accused Iran of developing nuclear weapons. Yet Iran's leaders insist this is not true. They say they want to make electricity from nuclear power and are not interested in developing nuclear weapons.

Countries such as the USA claim that if Iran had nuclear weapons it could use them to threaten other nations in the Middle East. If this happened these nations would want their own nuclear weapons. The USA and others argue that if an increasing number of countries have these weapons a nuclear war breaking out becomes more likely.

In 1957 the United Nations (UN) set up the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Its headquarters are in Vienna, the capital of Austria. One of the IAEA's main jobs is to check on all countries that use nuclear power to make electricity. This is to make sure they are not using their nuclear facilities to produce nuclear weapons.

However, Iran has refused to let the IAEA inspect all of its nuclear facilities. In 2011 the IAEA said it was almost certain that Iran was planning to make nuclear weapons.

As a way of stopping it from developing nuclear weapons the USA and many other countries have imposed sanctions on Iran. This means it is now difficult for Iran to trade with other countries. Iran produces a lot of oil, but many countries are no longer allowed to buy it. The sanctions have therefore caused serious problems for Iran's economy.

Iran is angry about the sanctions. In the recent past it has threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz. Many

suspect that if it were to do this it would use large numbers of mines. Blocking the waterway would cause problems in many parts of the world. This is because many countries would be unable to get the oil they need.

Thirty-five navy ships are taking part in the minesweeping exercise in the Gulf. Most are from the USA and the UK. On the ships are representatives from 41 different countries. The ships will practise searching for mines and protecting oil tankers. More than 100 navy divers, who are trained to make mines safe, will take part in the exercise.

American and UK navy commanders insist that the exercise has nothing to do with previous Iranian threats to block the Strait of Hormuz. ■

VICTORY DAY IN RUSSIA

In Russia 9th May is a national holiday. For Russians this day is the anniversary of the final defeat of Nazi Germany, in 1945, and the end of the Second World War in Europe. The holiday is called Victory Day.



Red Square Victory Day parade

On Victory Day special military parades are held in many Russian cities. The largest takes place in Red Square, in Moscow, the country's capital. For many Russians Victory Day is the most important holiday of the year.

Just before the war began, in 1939, Germany and Russia had signed an agreement, or pact. Shortly afterwards both sent their armies to attack Poland. Yet their pact suddenly came to an end in 1941 when the German army invaded Russia.



Victory Day parade fighter jets

In Russia the Second World War is known as the Great Patriotic War. In many countries, the line where the German and Russian armies faced each other during the war is known as the Eastern Front. Some of the fiercest battles of the war took place there. It's thought that as many as 25 million Russians were killed during the war.

One month after the war ended a victory parade was held in Red Square. It was then decided to hold the parade every year on 9th May.

Red Square is in the centre of Moscow. On one side is the Kremlin, a fortified building originally used by the Russian royal family. Today the Kremlin is the official home and offices of the Russian president.

Russia usually displays its latest military equipment during the Red Square victory parade. This year around 11,000 soldiers marched past a raised platform. On the platform were Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, the country's prime minister, Dmitry Medvedev, and many other important officials.

Hundreds of military vehicles were in the parade. They included

tanks and huge rocket launchers. Fighter jets, helicopters and larger military aircraft flew overhead.

Almost 2,000 former soldiers, who fought in the Great Patriotic War, were invited to watch the parade. Many wore their old uniforms and the medals they were awarded for helping to defeat Nazi Germany 68 years ago.

Many other events take place throughout Russia on Victory Day. Dance floors are set up in some of the parks in Moscow. In other places there are exhibitions that display the military equipment that was used in the war. In the evening there is a huge firework display in the capital.

Several cities organise special marches. Anyone who brings medals, photographs or letters of relatives who died in the war can join the march. The biggest of these

marches was held in the city of Tomsk. There over 10,000 people took part. These events are known as 'Immortal Regiment' marches. ■

HISTORIC GATE REOPENS

On 4th May a special ceremony was held in Seoul, the capital of South Korea. The event marked the reopening of Sungnyemun. Also known as Namdaemun, or the Great South Gate, Sungnyemun is the oldest building in the city. In 2008 a fire destroyed the wooden parts of the 600-year-old gate. The restoration work has taken five years to complete.

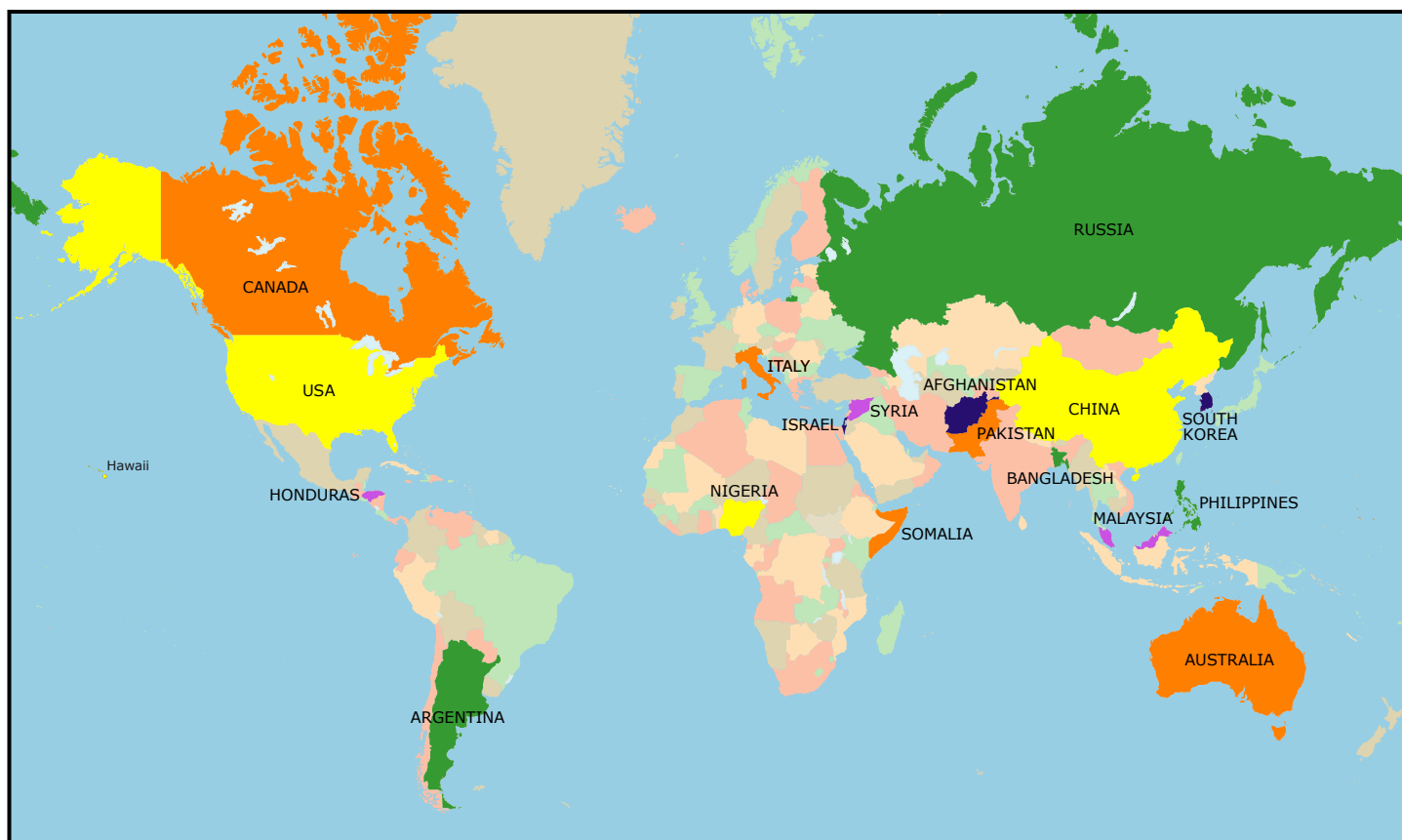
Today Seoul is a modern city, which is home to more than ten million people. Few old buildings remain. In 1910 Korea was taken over

by Japan. The Japanese ran the country until their defeat at the end of the Second World War, in 1945. During this time they knocked down many of Seoul's older wooden buildings.



The Great South Gate after the fire

In 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea. During the war that followed the United Nations (UN), with mainly American troops, helped the south. China sided with the North. The war ended in 1953 when both sides agreed to a truce, or ceasefire. Seoul was badly damaged in the war. Yet a few old traditional



buildings survived the destruction. One was Namdaemun.

The Great South Gate was built in 1391. It was part of the old walls that completely encircled the city. It is a two-storey wooden building, or pagoda, on a stone base. The gate was rebuilt in 1447 and has had to be repaired several times. However, the wooden part still had many of its original timbers.

Nowadays busy roads and tall office buildings surround the gate. Many Koreans regard Namdaemun as a 'national treasure'. It is one of the few reminders of their ancient culture and history.



Recently restored Great South Gate

In 2008 the wooden part of the gate caught fire. Yet officials were worried that water used by the fire-fighters might cause even more damage to the ancient wooden timbers. At first it seemed the fire had been put out. But a short time later it started again. This time the fire-fighters were unable to control the flames and the wooden part of the gate was destroyed.

The next day the police arrested a 69-year-old man. He admitted that he had started the fire. Two years earlier the same person had been caught starting a small fire at an old palace building. The man explained that he had used a ladder to climb to the wooden part of the gate. He then sprayed a **flammable** liquid on the floor and set it alight. The man said he started the fire because he was

angry about the sale of some nearby land ten years ago.

Many people donated money to pay for the restoration. Most of the work was done using traditional methods. All 22,000 roof tiles, for example, were made by hand. Thousands of workers, including scientists and historians took part in the project. There were a few changes. For example, the walls on both sides of the gate, which were knocked down during the Japanese occupation, were rebuilt.

Park Geun-hye, the president of South Korea, took part in the reopening ceremony. It began with a Buddhist **ritual** called a cheondo. This is supposed to rid the building of any 'bad luck'. Afterwards there was music, dancing and a parade by a military band. ■

SOMALIA CONFERENCE

A conference, or special meeting, was held to discuss Somalia on 7th May. The meeting took place in London, the capital of the UK. David Cameron, the UK's prime minister and Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Somalia's new president, hosted the conference. Representatives from 54 countries attended.

Somalia is still thought to be one of the most lawless places in the world. Until last year the country had not had an effective government for over 20 years. Somalia has also suffered from several famines. Today many people in the country do not have enough to eat.

In Somalia there have also been problems with armed groups and pirate gangs. Several years ago a militant Islamic group called al-Shabaab took control of the southern part of the country. This group's

supporters believe that people should obey a very strict version of Islamic laws.

In the recent past the African Union (AU) with help from the United Nations (UN) decided to **intervene** in the country. They wanted Somalia to have a proper elected government. The AU and UN hoped that once Somalia had elected its own officials they could then start to solve the country's many problems.



Somalia conference, in London

Around 9,000 AU soldiers, mainly from Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Burundi, and Djibouti, were sent to Somalia. By the beginning of 2012 they had managed to force all the al-Shabaab fighters to leave Mogadishu, the capital city.

For many years, groups of well-armed pirates have been operating in the seas around Somalia. These pirate gangs have been using villages near the coast of Somalia as bases without fear of arrest.

In the past Somali pirates, using fast speedboats, have captured many larger ships including several large oil tankers. The pirates get on board by threatening the ships' crew members with weapons. The ships are then sailed to the coast of Somalia where the pirates have their bases. The pirate leaders demand a large payment, or ransom, for the safe return of the ship and its crew. Some gangs have made a lot of money from these ransom payments.

Nowadays there are fewer pirate attacks. This is because navy ships from the European Union (EU) and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) have been patrolling the seas near Somalia. To help stop the attacks other countries, such as Malaysia, South Korea, Russia, China, Thailand, and India, have also sent warships to this part of the Indian Ocean.



Last year the UN arranged for the main tribes, or clans, in the country to select people for a new 245-member parliament. These members then elected Mr Mohamud as Somalia's president. Mr Mohamud is a former Mogadishu University professor.

Today, the government, with help from AU soldiers, is in charge of Mogadishu and the surrounding area. Parts of the county near Kenya and Ethiopia are occupied by AU troops. Yet large areas of the countryside are still controlled by al-Shabaab.

At the London conference Mr Cameron said that Mr Mohamud had been doing a good job. Yet, he warned that al-Shabaab still had to be defeated. The UK's prime minister announced that his country, the USA and other EU member nations would provide £240 million (US\$365 million) to help rebuild Somalia. This would be spent on setting up proper government ministries, law courts, more police officers, a new army of 25,000 men,

and a coastguard, or force to guard the coastline.

Mr Cameron and Mr Mohamud said they hoped that by 2016 Somalia would be ready to hold proper elections. ■

SATURN'S HUGE STORM

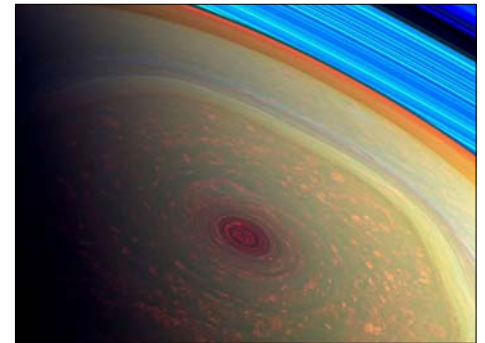
NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has recently released some photographs of a huge storm, or hurricane, at Saturn's north pole. Similar to hurricanes, or typhoons, on the Earth, the huge circular storm has an 'eye' in the centre. The eye has no, or very low, clouds. NASA scientists say it is roughly 20 times larger than the eyes of averaged-sized hurricanes on the Earth.

NASA's Cassini spacecraft took the pictures of the huge storm. This unmanned spacecraft, or probe, is part of the Cassini-Huygens space mission. This is a joint project between NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA).

Saturn is famous for its rings. These are no more than 20 metres (66 feet) thick but are about 113,000 kilometres (70,200 miles) wide. The rings are made up of billions of pieces of ice and dust. Saturn has seven rings. These are known, in the order of their discovery, by the letters of the alphabet from A to G.

Saturn is what's called a gas giant. It probably has a solid centre, or core, made up of metal and rock. The gas is mostly hydrogen. Saturn is about 95 times bigger than the Earth. It has 62 moons. Only Jupiter, which has 64, has more. Most of Saturn's moons are very small. Only 13 have a diameter greater than 50 kilometres (31 miles).

The Cassini-Huygens spacecraft was named after two astronomers. Giovanni Cassini (1625 – 1712) was an Italian engineer and astronomer. He was the first person to see four of Saturn's moons with a telescope. Christiaan Huygens (1629 – 1695) was a Dutch mathematician and astronomer. He discovered Titan, the largest of Saturn's moons.



Saturn's north pole with the eye of the storm in red. Blues at top right are Saturn's rings (NASA)

Cassini-Huygens was launched in 1997. It flew around Venus and Jupiter before finally reaching Saturn. When it arrived the spacecraft began to orbit the ringed planet. Five months later Cassini-Huygens split in two. Huygens travelled to Titan. It passed through the moon's atmosphere and landed on Titan's surface. Cassini has continued to orbit Saturn since the spacecraft divided.

It takes Saturn about 30 Earth years to orbit the Sun. Every 15 years (or half a Saturn year) the Sun is directly above Saturn's equator. At this time, when viewed from the Earth, it looks as if the rings have almost disappeared. This is because only their thickness is in line with the Earth and the Sun. This moment is called equinox. The last one was in August 2009.

When Cassini first arrived in 2004 the northern part of Saturn was in darkness. Now that the equinox has passed, sunlight has

been gradually lighting up Saturn's northern hemisphere. Special equipment on Cassini had detected the storm at the north pole before. Yet the recent photographs are the first to have been taken of it in visible light.

On the Earth there are five **categories** of hurricane. The strongest, known as category 5 storms, are hurricanes with winds blowing at 253 kilometres (157 miles) per hour. These powerful storms can turn towns and cities into ruins. NASA scientists estimate that the winds of the storm at Saturn's north pole have a speed of 530 kilometres (330 miles) per hour.

In Cassini's pictures the storm looks very colourful. However, the colours are 'false'. They have been used to help to highlight the different types of cloud. Unlike hurricanes on the Earth the storm on Saturn is not moving. The scientists are not sure when it started but suspect it has been in the same place for many years. ■

MIRACLE RESCUE

Rescue workers have been helping to clear the wreckage of a building in Bangladesh. The building suddenly fell down on 24th April killing many of those who worked there. On 10th May one of the rescue workers heard a faint voice asking for help. It came from an 18-year-old woman. She was still trapped and had managed to survive, under the pile of concrete and twisted metal, for 17 days.

The accident happened in Savar, an industrial suburb about 30 kilometres (19 miles) from Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital city. The building, called Rana Plaza, was eight storeys high. Inside were several

NewsCAST

EAT MORE INSECTS — A recent United Nations (UN) report has proposed a possible way of reducing hunger in the world. It suggests that people should eat more insects. The report says that insects such as ants, beetles, wasps and grasshoppers contain a lot of protein. It gives an example of crickets. These insects, the report says, need to eat far less than beef cattle to produce a similar amount of protein. The report estimates that around two billion people in the world already eat some insects. Most of these are gathered in forests. The report suggests that in future special 'farms' should be set up to greatly increase the number of those insects that people already eat.

clothing, or garment, factories some shops and a bank.

The day before the building fell down some cracks had appeared in its walls. The bank and shops were immediately closed. However, some engineers said the building was safe. The owners of the clothing factories told their workers to return the next day. The following morning, soon after many people had started work, the building collapsed. It's thought that at least 3,000 people were in the building at the time.

Firefighters, police officers and soldiers quickly arrived. Local people offered to help. Rescue work was difficult. At first those in charge of the operation did not want to use heavy machinery, such as cranes and other types of lifting equipment. They worried that it might cause further collapses and endanger those trapped in the wreckage.

Rescue workers had to cut through concrete pillars and drill

holes in collapsed floors. After three days people were still being pulled from the wreckage alive. Temperatures were very hot and those that had been trapped had little food or water. After several more days it was decided that there were no more survivors. Heavy equipment was then used to help to recover the bodies of all those who had died. So far it's known that at least 1,127 people were killed in the accident.

A number of people have been arrested. They include the owner of the Rana Plaza, the bosses of the garment factories and the engineers who claimed the building was safe.

There are around 4,000 garment factories in Bangladesh. Clothing is the country's most important industry. Most of the money Bangladesh earns comes from making garments for big international clothing companies in other parts of the world. However, garment factory workers in Bangladesh are paid very low wages.



Collapsed Rana Plaza building

In recent years there have been a number of accidents in clothing factories in the country. Rana Plaza was the worst. Some people now want international clothing companies to pay more for the garments they have made in Bangladesh. This extra money, they say, should then be used to pay workers higher wages and make factories safer places in which to work.

On 8th May, 18 garment factories were ordered to close. Government

officials said they were unsafe. Bosses have closed many others. This is because they are worried about workers' protests.

After rescue workers heard the woman's voice all the heavy machinery was stopped. It took 40 minutes to make a hole big enough to get her out. She was taken to hospital. Later Sheikh Hasina, the country's prime minister, visited her.

The woman, whose name is Reshma, had been working on the second floor of the building. She had run down some stairs as it began to fall down. A large pillar had protected her. Nearby were several people who died. Luckily she found some dried food and bottled water. But by the time she was rescued she had not eaten anything for two days and had no water left. Many people said it was a **miracle** that the young woman had managed to survive for such a long time. ■

CARBON DIOXIDE LEVELS

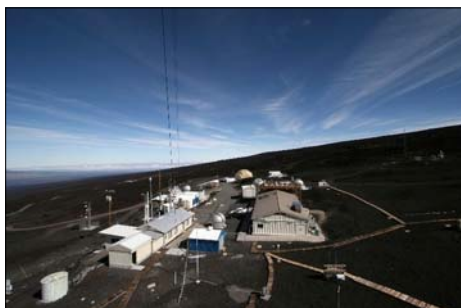
On 10th May the Mauna Loa observatory made a **significant** carbon dioxide (CO₂) recording. For the first time in hundreds of thousands of years the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere had reached 400 parts per million (ppm). This means that for every million **molecules** in the air there are 400 molecules of CO₂.

The Mauna Loa observatory is on the slopes of one of the five volcanoes that form the Island of Hawaii. This island, which is part of the USA, is in the Pacific Ocean.

There are a number of observatories around the world that measure the amount of CO₂ in the air. However, the Mauna Loa observatory has been making these recordings since 1958. Its CO₂ measurements

are what is known as the **benchmark**. This means recordings from other parts of the world are compared to it.

One reason for Mauna Loa being selected as the benchmark, or baseline observatory, is because it is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Here it is far away from any large land mass or continent. It is also high above sea level where the air is less polluted.



Mauna Loa observatory in Hawaii

Scientists say over the last 200 years human activity has been increasing the amount of CO₂ in the air. Most of this extra CO₂ comes from the burning of fossil fuels – oil, gas and coal. CO₂ is what's known as a greenhouse gas. Most scientists believe that the increasing amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere is causing average world temperatures to rise and the climate to change.

During the year the amount of CO₂ in the air goes up and down. The level rises in May and then goes down again. Plants cause this natural rise and fall. In the winter and spring months, in the northern hemisphere, where most of the world's vegetation grows, decaying plants produce extra CO₂. Then, during the summer months, growing plants absorb it.

However, trees and plants are not able to absorb all the CO₂ from human activity. So, over the years the amount of CO₂ in the air has been steadily increasing.

Scientists are able to work out how much CO₂ was in the atmosphere many millions of years ago. One way of doing this is from air bubbles trapped in ice. By drilling into thick ice, in Greenland and Antarctica, air bubbles that were trapped a long time ago, can be collected.

By studying things such as ice cores scientists can work out how much CO₂ there was in the air hundreds of thousand of years ago. They think the last time the figure was 400 ppm was between three and five million years ago. This period is known as the Pliocene. Then average world temperatures were higher than they are today. At the North and South Pole it was 8°C warmer. Sea levels were also much higher.

Two hundred years ago the CO₂ figure was about 280 ppm. Scientists say the 400 ppm recording does not mean anything will suddenly change. Yet this figure, they explain, is an important **milestone**. It is a reminder that the amount of CO₂ in the air continues to rise and that, in future, the world may become as warm as it was during the Pliocene. ■

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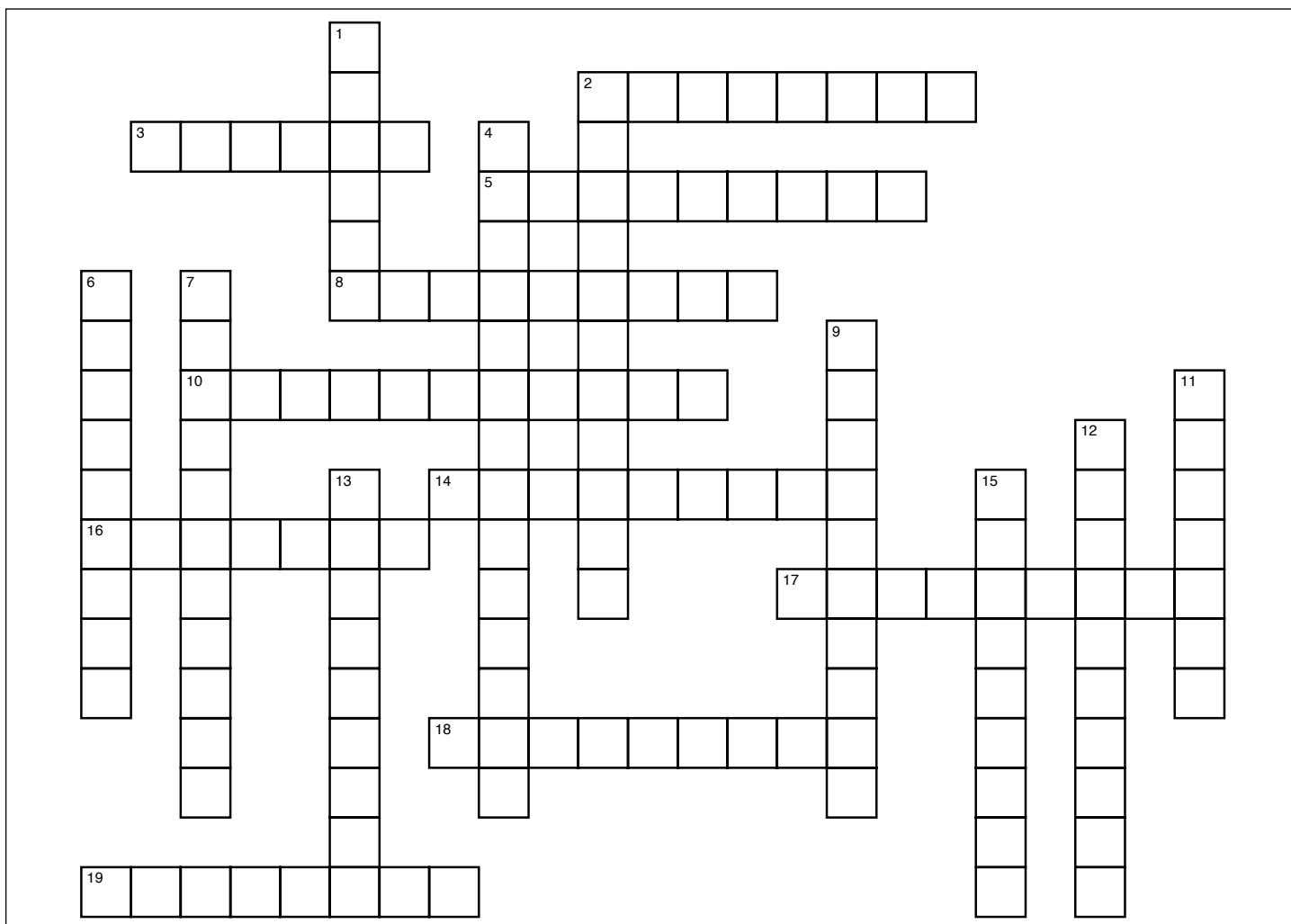
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ISSUE 197

GLOSSARY PUZZLE

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword go to the word search on the next page ➡



ACROSS

- 2 Adjective** Describes someone or something that will not die but live forever
- 3 Noun** A large hole in the ground from which stone or sand is dug up for use in building
- 5 Verb** To intentionally become involved in a difficult situation to stop it from getting worse
- 8 Noun (Plural)** Measures applied to force a country to stop doing something
- 10 Adjective** Having a special meaning
- 14 Noun** An important event in history or in someone's life
- 16 Noun** An amazing or wonderful event that is very unlikely to happen
- 17 Noun (Plural)** Groups of two or more atoms linked together
- 18 Adjective** Describes a substance, such as an acid, that can destroy solid materials
- 19 Noun** An army group or unit of at least 1,000 soldiers or two battalions

DOWN

- 1 Noun (Plural)** Woody plants that have branches but are smaller than trees
- 2 Adverb** Describes making something using a lot of small parts or details arranged in a complicated way
- 4 Noun** When a person or people are treated differently or unfairly because of who they are
- 6 Noun** A standard by which others things can be judged or measured
- 7 Noun** The act of bringing something back to a former good condition
- 9 Noun (Plural)** Groups of things that have similarities
- 11 Noun** A period of time during which people are not punished for committing a particular crime
- 12 Noun** A group of people who have the same interests
- 13 Adjective** Able to catch fire
- 15 Noun** The act of deliberately preventing, or stopping, someone from entering a place

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GLOSSARY PUZZLE *CONTINUED*

N O I T A N I M I R C S I D E W F T
 O O G Z L Z C H E X Z T P L W L H N
 I M I L E S T O N E P L C Q A B A A
 T K N S M L G K P U Y A G M N E J C
 A Z J K U K I I L I R N M L Z M V I
 R T R R Y L D K B I H A X A N X V F
 O H Z A L A C M M S B S R T F J C I
 T X I M P S C X E L I L W R J E K N
 S R X H D N E A E N G B C O Y T O G
 E E O C Y O L L T V W J E M L D U I
 R G D N O I J R U E I N S M D L Y S
 U I F E P T I L F C G S N I L U E P
 Q M B B A C F R F S E O O R P Y U F
 F E Q B A N E J H U I L R R B T I N
 J N W T M A S X Q F E Q O I R H L W
 C T E B Z S S B U R H S I M E O N O
 A L S Q R I N T E R V E N E W S C X
 Y R R A U Q L I Q H H W Z T H L J H

INSTRUCTIONS: ③ Find 19 of the 20 crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After finding the 19 words write down the 20th (or missing) word under the puzzle.

Demics are tokens that Individual and Family Subscribers can earn. They are awarded for answering this Glossary Puzzle and/or the Daily News question – accessible by logged in users – correctly. Demics earned can be used by Family and Individual Subscribers in the Newsademic online store.

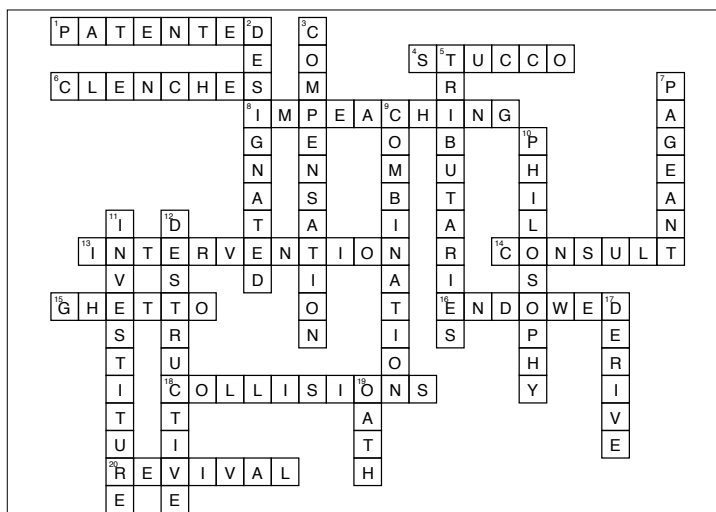


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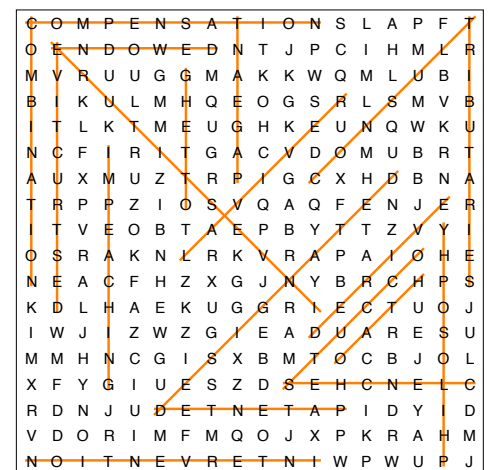
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MISSING WORD ANSWER =



ISSUE 196 ANSWERS



C O L L I S I O N S